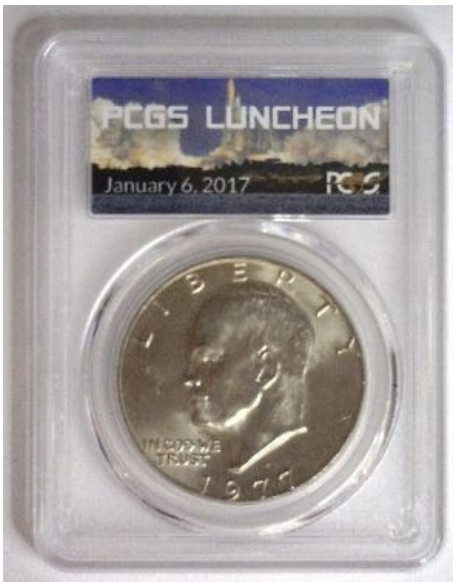
# Sample Slab Update #17 – February 2017

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

## Market Notes




Even more samples than usual sold on eBay in 2017, up from the usual three per day to about four per day. Buoyed by a few large sales and the increasing prices for common early PCGS holders, the mean price January 1 – February 10 was $38, compared to the long term average of $33.

Mike Kittle had another one of his Sunday evening sample sales, with 16 pieces closing on January 22. This included 11 of the PCGS grading slabs (discussed in prior issues), highlighted by a VF20 Morgan that sold for $235.83. Two of the PCGS dual coin 1943 cent / 1943 nickel samples sold as well, earning $143.50 for the MS66 and $212.50 for the MS66 Full Steps.

Collectors attending the PCGS Luncheon at FUN on January 8 received a fresh luncheon slab, this time with a 1977-D dollar. Eight sold on eBay, with the first ending at $148.50 and the most recent selling for $56.00. With the large dollar coin, expect this holder to keep an above average value in the long term.

Looks like we were all napping when a 1957 doily got only one bid and auctioned for $69.99 on January 14. I should have been paying more attention. The next few times special early PCGS samples went up for sale, however, we took notice, including $256.08 for a proof solid zero rattler.

I have been saying Blanchard samples are undervalued and, for the first time since April 2014, we were able to test that hypothesis in a public auction. A pair of Blanchard proof nickel samples, including a 1961 and a previously unknown 1960 date, went up for sale in a no-reserve auction. The two coins earned $150.56, or about $75 each, compared to the catalog of $50. Both were of an unknown but suspected type: proof nickels with a type 2 white and gold reverse label.

### Take that Photograde Screenshot Now

If you have one of the grading set slabs with the Photograde coin, it might not have that distinction much longer.

Most slab enthusiasts by now know about the PCGS grading set slabs that entered the market starting in April 2016. The grading set coins are ideal examples of their grades and help graders use consistent and accurate standards. A few of these holders contain the exact coins used in the PCGS Photograde app. For example, if you use Photograde to evaluate an XF45 Buffalo nickel, you are looking at a coin that I own.

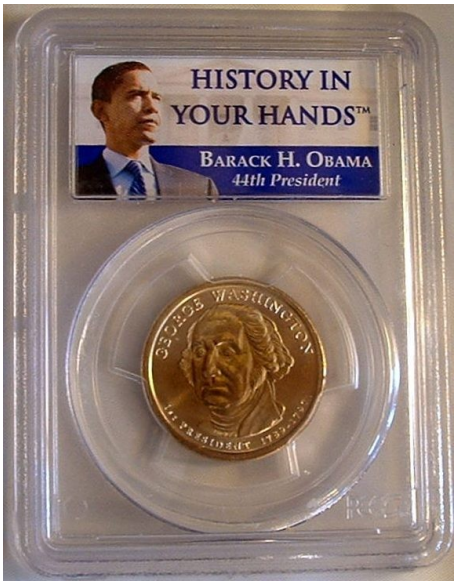
On February 1, the PCGS Twitter feed announced planned updates of Photograde with new images. If you own one of the Photograde holders, take a screenshot of the current version of the app in case the image changes. It's also possible that different grading set slabs will become the new Photograde coins.

### Book News – On Tour

I'm promoting the Sample Slabs catalog on a book tour, giving talks on sample slabs at Los Angeles area coin clubs and flogging books afterwards. The first stop was the Orange County Coin Club in Costa Mesa, CA on January 11, with the next engagements at the Covina Coin Club in San Dimas on February 15 and the Upland Coin Club on April 15. Clubs always need speakers, and I expect to visit most of the clubs within about 50 miles of my home. If you belong to a Southern California coin club, let me know what would be a good day to speak at a meeting. Even the slab haters seemed to like the talk.

A little under half of the print run of Sample Slabs, second edition, remains. Buy it for $29 with shipping ($12 for the PDF download) at SampleSlabBook.com or eBay. As always, I also sell the printed book in person for only $19 check or cash. Find me at the Long Beach Expo and several other California shows (and now clubs).

## New PCGS History In Your Hands – What's That Red Ring?




The ever-growing number of grading service special labels usually fall outside of the sample slab field, but these fresh PCGS offerings relate to an item in the catalog and, as novelty slabs, are of interest to slab enthusiasts. As detailed on page 525 of Sample Slabs, second edition, in 2009 PCGS issued a variety of coins with History in Your Hands labels commemorating the first inauguration of Barack Obama. Although the catalog states that they are worth only a few dollars over the raw coin value and this is usually still true, I recently learned that the Obama MS70 Silver Eagle is a scarce variety earning $100 - $300.

Starting a few days ago, PCGS released a similar label for Donald Trump. All of the Trump slabs currently for sale contain MS69 or MS70 2017 Silver Eagles and dozens of eBay sellers are offering the coins, including wholesale lots. Completists can also buy an Obama / Trump transition label from PCGS showing images of both chief executives (only seller siriussportsauctions carries this holder), and ANACS made a Trump inauguration label for Silver Eagles as well. Based on the number of recent sales, it looks like siriussportsauctions had PCGS make a new batch of Obama History in Your Hands slabs, all with ungraded 2009 Silver Eagles.

More interesting than the labels, a few of the PCGS Trump History in Your Hands holders contain a red gasket (the rubber ring that surrounds the coin) instead of the usual clear gasket. Only one dealer, Pinehurst Coin Exchange of Pinehurst, North Carolina, (ebay ID pinehurstcoins) carries the red gasket holders, all with MS70 Silver Eagles. NGC previously used red inserts on some holders and even put red inserts in sample slabs distributed at coin shows in Asia.

Based on the large number made and the performance of the 2009 slabs, in the long term the 2017 History In Your Hands holders should trade at only a few dollars over plain holders with the same coins. If PCGS uses the colored gasket only in this holder, however, the red-ringed slabs could hold or increase their value.

**New Feature - Notes from Sample Slab Update Readers**

Tim Larson writes,

"I have a few cool slabs you might want to put in your next newsletter. For the 2016 30th anniversary of PCGS, they made 30th anniversary silver medals for the original founders/dealers. I have one of those if interested. One appeared on ebay, brought around $600.

The 2 I have were made specifically for 2 of the principals still at PCGS - Dave Hall and Van Simmons. They came available to me since they are errors - wrong date of PCGS starting business on the slab. I'm told the correct ones are treasured by both men.

The other sample is NGC - one of the openable slabs used for housing the Smithsonian collection - openable so the coins can be studied as needed."

*Outstanding slabs, Tim. How do you get such choice material? I decided to start putting letters from Sample Slab Update readers in the newsletter because of slabs like these. We slab collectors learn so much from each other. -David*

Jay Chamberlain writes,

"While at the FUN show, I did get several sample slabs, both are NGC. I know PCGS had one, saw it, and even said "Limited to 200" on the back, but did not procure one *(That's the Ike dollar FUN Luncheon slab on page 1 of this issue. –David).*

Attached are images of the sample from the NGC Members Luncheon, and an NGC sample slab given away to YN's at the Coins For Kids booth, upon completion of the scavenger hunt."

*Thanks for the photos, Jay. I would not have known that the "FUN SHOW 2017" holder was a YN slab. - David*

Mark Lorey writes,

"Lovin' the sample slab updates. I noticed your comments in the latest newsletter update. Here is a photo of some other NCS samples that are out there.

Also - ever hear of a sample 'stamp'??"

*Nice NCS slabs, Mark. I knew of only one NCS submission number, but here is a second one. I have a PSE sample but it's not labeled "SAMPLE" Yours is better. -David*

## Buying and Selling

### Buying

Sample Slab Update reader Kellen Hoard seeks one of the PCGS silver Kangaroo samples from the 2016 Anaheim ANA. Email him at kellenhoard@gmail.com

I always need samples from obscure graders such as TruGrade, NuGrade, and Global. If you are selling a collection or a single sample, consider offering it to me – I may be able to save you some time and eBay fees.

Has anyone seen a CGC comic book sample slab? I know that one exists with a Resident Evil comic.

### Selling

**1 Uncommon PMG sample.** (PMG-Cj5-1-1) Only two of these appeared on eBay since 2013, selling for about $40 each. $32

**2 PCGS grading set Lincoln cent.** (PCGS-Unlisted) The PCGS grading set holders are now a well established and desirable part of the sample market. This one holds a 1918 Lincoln cent intended as an ideal example of the G4 grade. Do you think grading set slabs will become scarce? $115

**3 Toned sample.** (PCGS-025-4-18) I could have done a better job with the photography to show the patches of sky-blue toning on this sample. A common sample, but how many 2001 coins have toned in their holders? $14

**4 Case of the missing mintmark.** (PCGS-050-3-2) An admittedly grubby coin in a common green label holder. The good news is on the back, where this coin has a D mintmark not mentioned on the label. $22

**5 PCGS Kennedy with a Franklin coin number.** (PCGS-050-3-3) Variant of the above, but with coin number 6704 instead of 6706. About ten 6706 slabs appear for every 6704. Although all contain Kennedys, 6704 is the PCGS coin number for a 1963 proof Franklin. $25

**6 World coin PCGS FUN Luncheon.** (PCGS-Fc20-9-1) Only three sold on eBay, so it looks like most of the Registry members chose to keep theirs. $50

**7 PCGS Currency Collectors Club premium - India.** (PCGS Currency-Ir5-2-1) New and renewing members of the PCGS Currency Collectors Club receive a sample such as this 5 rupees.$7

**8 A second PCGS Currency Collectors Club premium - Zambia.** (PCGS Currency-Zk50-2-1) I got this sample when I bought a membership at the Long Beach Expo in February 2014. It is the plate note in Sample Slabs. $12

Free shipping on all orders. I welcome trade offers, especially desirable samples or anything easy to sell. To order any of the above, email me to verify the slabs are still available, then send PayPal to davidschwager@hotmail.com.

If you would like to place a brief buy or sell ad in the next Sample Slab Update at no charge, please email me. Also feel free to post buy and sell offers to Twitter ID @SampleSlabBook.

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